

bill, we can give American businesses and inventors a helping hand to stay innovative.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has acted quickly and in a bipartisan way to ensure that fees collected by United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, are not diverted for other purposes this fiscal year.

The Director of the USPTO has done a remarkable job in his short tenure dealing with a massive backlog of patent applications and a serious budget shortfall. The action that Congress has taken today will at least provide short term financial help to the agency by ensuring that the USPTO is not penalized for having done more work this fiscal year than it had anticipated.

More needs to be done to modernize and improve our patent system, which is a crucial component of our economic recovery. Bipartisan patent reform legislation is ready for Senate action. This bill will provide the legal structure we need to allow our inventors to flourish. It will improve our economy and create jobs without adding a penny to the deficit.

While I strongly support the action the Senate has taken today, we cannot fix our overburdened and outdated patent system simply through additional appropriations. Congress must act on meaningful patent reform legislation this year.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5874) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 592, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 592) designating the week of September 13–19, 2010, as “Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week,” and supporting the goals and ideals of Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week to raise awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and the impact the disease has on patients now and for future generations until it can be cured.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution

be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 592) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 592

Whereas polycystic kidney disease (known as “PKD”) is one of the most prevalent life-threatening genetic diseases in the world, affecting an estimated 600,000 people in the United States, including newborn babies, children, and adults, regardless of sex, age, race, geography, income, or ethnicity;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease comes in 2 forms, autosomal dominant, which affects 1 in 500 people worldwide, and autosomal recessive, a rare form that affects 1 in 20,000 live births and frequently leads to early death;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease causes multiple cysts to form on both kidneys, leading to an increase in kidney size and weight;

Whereas the cysts caused by polycystic kidney disease can be as small as the head of a pin or as large as a grapefruit;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a systemic disease that damages the kidneys and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal systems;

Whereas patients with polycystic kidney disease often experience no symptoms during the early stages of the disease, and many patients do not realize they have PKD until the disease affects other organs;

Whereas the symptoms of polycystic kidney disease can include high blood pressure, chronic pain in the back, sides or abdomen, blood in the urine, urinary tract infections, heart disease, and kidney stones;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is the leading genetic cause of kidney failure in the United States;

Whereas more than half of patients suffering from polycystic kidney disease will reach kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive, thus placing an extra strain on dialysis and kidney transplantation resources;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease has no treatment or cure;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease instills in patients the fear of an unknown future with a life-threatening genetic disease, and of possible genetic discrimination;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is an example of how collaboration, technological innovation, scientific momentum, and public-private partnerships can—

(1) generate therapeutic interventions that directly benefit the people suffering from polycystic kidney disease;

(2) save billions of Federal dollars paid by Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs for dialysis, kidney transplants, immunosuppressant drugs, and related therapies; and

(3) open several thousand spots on the kidney transplant waiting list;

Whereas improvements in diagnostic technology and the expansion of scientific knowledge about polycystic kidney disease have led to—

(1) the discovery of the 3 primary genes that cause polycystic kidney disease and the 3 primary protein products of the genes; and

(2) the understanding of cell structures and signaling pathways that cause cyst growth, which has produced multiple polycystic kidney disease clinical drug trials; and

Whereas thousands of volunteers throughout the United States are dedicated to expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding, educating patients and their families about polycystic kidney disease to improve treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 13–19, 2010, as “Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of a national week to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into a treatment and a cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to—

(A) support Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week through appropriate ceremonies and activities;

(B) promote public awareness of polycystic kidney disease; and

(C) foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY OF SENATE EMPLOYEES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 601, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 601) to authorize testimony of Senate employees in a grand jury proceeding in the District of Columbia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution would authorize employees in the office of Senator JOHN ENSIGN to respond to subpoenas or requests for testimony by a Federal grand jury convened in the District of Columbia to investigate matters relating to Senator ENSIGN. The Senator would like to cooperate with this request. This resolution would authorize the Senator's staff to testify in these or related proceedings, except where a privilege should be asserted.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 601) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 601

Whereas, in a proceeding before a grand jury of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia testimony has been sought from employees of the office of Senator John Ensign;